MOMENTOUS MUSLIM GATHERING AT NAGPUR

40,000 MUSLIMS ATTENDED

League Working Committee and Students' Federation

FLAG HOISTED BY RAJA OF MAHMUDABAD

Nagpur drew Muslim Leaders and Students from all over India during the last week of December when the All-India Muslim Students' Federation held its fifth annual session in that city on December 25, 26 and 27, and the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League also met there to discuss the political situation in the country and its repercussions in Great Britain.

On the evening of December 24 a hearty welcome was accorded to Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan who arrived in Nagpur from Delhi, and the next morning a rousing reception was given to Qa'id-e-Azam Jinnah, President-elect of the fifth session of the All-India Muslim Students' Federation.

The Nagpur Railway station platform was crowded to suffocation and as the Bombay Mail, in which the Qa'id-e-Azam was travelling, drew up, shouts of *Allaho Akbar* and Qa'id-e-Azam Zindabad rent the air. Mr. Jinnah alighting from the train was profusely garlanded. A huge gathering of Muslims awaited him outside and followed in a procession the flower-bedecked car in which the Qa'id-e-Azam was taken through the principal streets of the city of Nagpur lined by Musalmans who had come from various parts of the province. The whole of the route was with welcome arches and decorated with flowers and buntings. There was a pilot car which went ahead announcing the arrival of the Qa'id-e-Azam.

Accompanying Mr. Jinnah's car were the City Magistrate, City Superintendent of Police and other Magistrates and Police officers. The people who had lined up the route were quite orderly and presented a grand spectacle,

Flag Hoisted

The same afternoon at four o'clock the Raja Saheb of Mahmudabad hoisted the Muslim League Flag and paid glowing tributes to the leadership of Qa'id-e-Azam Jinnah. Thousands of persons assembled in front of the Pandal witnessed the flag hoisting ceremony. He explained to the audience the significance of the flag and what it stood for. He said that the Muslims of India were determined to establish Pakistan even if thousands of Savarkars chose to oppose it. He said that Mr. Jinnah's leadership had enabled the 100 million Muslims of India to rally round one flag, under one organisation, and that within four years they had been able to build up an efficient organisation which had roused the political consciousness of the Musalmans.

In the night, the huge and beautiful Pandal, in the park situated close to the Railway Station, was filled to capacity when the fifth annual session of the All-India Muslim Students' Federation opened at 10 p.m., under the presidentship of Qa'id-e-Azam Jinnah amidst deafening cheers. About 40,000 Muslman's attended the session.

Muslim leaders from various provinces including the members of the League Working Committee were seated on the dias. Among those present Begam Habibullah, Begam Aizaz Rasool, Miss Habibullah, Begam Wasim, Sir M. Yusuf, Begam Siddiq Ali Khan, Fatima Parvin Saheba, Sayed Aizaz Rasool, Dr. S. N. A. Jaffery, Nawab Bahadur Yar Jung, Mr. Syed Abul Hasan, Maulana Jamal Mian and Mr. M. Wasim.

Glories of Islam

Poems were recited by Mr. Sharfuddin, Advocate, Amraoti, and Mr. Abdul Ali and others, some of which were highly appreciated. Begum Siddiq Ali Khan's poem, which was recited by a member of the local League touched the hearts of the audience.

Nawab Bahadur Yar Jung was then called upon by the Qa'id-e-Azam to make a speech. He spoke for more than an hour and moved the audience to the very depth of their souls. He brought home to the Muslim students the glories of Islam and pointed out what the duties of a Muslim student were. He explained at length what he meant by "a Muslim student" and reminded those present of a huge and stupendous task that awaited them.

The Qa'id-e-Azam then thanked the organizers of the annual session and Mr. Noman, Deputy President of the Federation, for the elaborate arrangements which they had made for holding the session.

The next marning the Qa'id-e-Azam delivered his illuminating presidential address, extempore, which has been reported in the columns of this paper elsewhere.

Voice of Millions

Immediately after the speech of the Qa'id-e-Azam, Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman was requested to make a speech which he did. He spoke at length on the gesture of the British Government in having released the *satyagraha* prisoners and said that the Congress and Hindu leaders thought that they had achieved a great success in coming out of the jails practically as aimlessly as they had walked into them. All their efforts were now concentrated on one point only—to make somehow or other the declaration of August 8, 1940 quite ineffective and inapplicable. They had, perhaps, forgotten that there were one hundred million Musalmans in India. It was impossible to suppress the voice of one hundred millions. If the Hindus were conscious of the strength behind them, the Musalmans also were proud of their strength and of their past and they knew how to meet a challenge, resistence being bred in their bones.

Qazi Mohammad Isa next spoke. He said that the Musalmans tried in the past all possible means to come to a settlement with the Hindus who proved unresponsive. He said that he was quite convinced that there was no other alternative except that of Pakistan which alone would enable the Musalmans to lead a richer and fuller life of a full-fledged nation. It was no use talking at this stage of any other solution.

Subject-Committee

On the morning of December 27, there was a delegates conference in the Pandal after which the Subjects-Committee of the A. I. M. S. Federation met and discussed several resolutions, some of which dealt with amendment of the constitution, release of Allama Mashriqi grievances of the students of the various Universities and condemnation of Mr. Fazlul Huq.

There was a heated debate over the proposal of delegating powers to the President to nominate 21 members to the Council of the Federation.

It was, however, finally agreed as a compromise that the President should nominate 21 members on the recommendations of the provincial units from among the members of the Federation.

Resolutions urging students to carry on propaganda for adult education, asking the authorities of the Allahabad and the Lucknow Universities to recognise the rights of the students, and condemning Mr. Fazlul Haq and congratulating Sir Nazimuddin were adopted.

Bengal with League

At the closing session of the Federation, Mr. Ispahani made a moving speech on Muslim Bengal being on the side of the Muslim League and exposed Mr, Fazlul Huq's latest acts of treachery and disloyalty to the cause of Muslim Bengal.

The session ended with another speech of Mr. Jinnah who advised the students to concentrate on educational, economic and other aspects of national life and do constructive works during the holidays and further advised them not to take an active part in politics.

The concluding speech of Mr. Jinnah will be published in our next issue.

Before the session came to a close Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan delivered a forceful speech on the present political situation.